

VALLEY STAR

VOLUME 60, ISSUE No. 6

OCTOBER 29, 2003

LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

MTA Strike Continues

■ Commuters enter third week of transit shutdown.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

Negotiations between Metropolitan Transit Authority officials and representatives from the Amalgamated Transit Union broke off Tuesday after MTA officials submitted what they call "their last and final offer."

More than 500,000 commuters continue finding alternate means of transportation as the strike's third week proceeds.

"ATU gave us a proposal, our people are going to caucus on that," MTA spokesman, Bill Heard said Saturday.

The 2,200-member mechanic's union proposed the new contract during weekend talks after the MTA eased up on their previous demand to completely take over the employees' health care trust fund.

The MTA offer includes a \$4.7 million contribution to help the money-losing health fund and equal representation on the

See *Strike* page 5

Trustees Endorse Read Act

■ Bill would restrict PATRIOT Act.

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
OPINION EDITOR

The Los Angeles Community College Board unanimously adopted a resolution to support a congressional bill calling for the repeal, restriction or defunding of several provisions of a law that allows the government to access medical, financial and academic records without probable cause.

The Freedom to Read Protection Act (HR 1157) challenges several sections of the controversial USA PATRIOT Act, particularly those pertaining to the tracking of book purchasing and borrowing records.

"The reason I addressed it as a 'Freedom to Read' resolution is because I felt this attacks a fundamental core of our mission," said Trustee Sylvia Scott-Hayes, who initiated the measure. "I wanted to focus on where our students and staff may be directly impacted. These draconian limitations may ultimately have a significant impact on what students may read."

The resolution states, "Provisions of the PATRIOT Act ... threaten the civil rights and civil liberties of the students, faculty and staff of the LACCD." The resolution cites law enforcement access to medical, financial and academic records without "customary administrative oversight, probable cause and notification," as well as other

See *Trustees* page 6

Apocalypse Now: Southland Ablaze



TAMMY ABBOTT/VALLEY STAR

A LONG DAY'S NIGHT - Dave Schwab of the Ventura County Fire Department tries to defend homes by lighting back fires. The blaze along the 118 Freeway threatened neighborhoods in Chatsworth Tuesday. Weary firefighters have been on the battlelines throughout the weekend.

■ Thousands forced to flee from homes as Santa Ana wind fanned flames devour hillsides.

BY PHILLIP ROBERTSON
NEWS EDITOR

A section of Southern California nearing the size of Rhode Island remained ablaze as hot, dry Santa Ana winds stoked flames across mountains and through neighborhoods from San Diego to Fillmore. The fires destroyed more than 1,500 homes and killed at least 15 people over the past week.

President George W. Bush declared a disaster area in the affected regions. Gov. Gray Davis mobilized the California National Guard and spoke with officials in surrounding states to request aid.

California's new Gov.-elect Arnold Schwarzenegger was in Washington, D.C. yesterday vowing to work with the Bush administration to quickly provide relief to the victims.

A fire that began near Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia over the weekend spread into the Simi Valley and Chatsworth areas. The flames crossed the 118 Freeway Monday in several areas, threatening homes in the Rocky Peak area. The fire continued pushing into Porter Ranch yesterday. Several Valley College students and administrators have been forced to evacuate their homes.

"We have five strike teams out right now and city units up in the Porter Ranch/Chatsworth area," said Bob Armitage, a paramedic firefighter from sta-

tion 102 across the street from the Valley campus. "We have ready reserve fire apparatus and rescue equipment at every station and everyone locally will be taken care of."

Liberal studies student S. Michelle Klein-Hass was traveling on a train from Santa Barbara Saturday when she was stopped in Moorpark by the fire. "We were stuck for six hours," Klein-Hass said. "I got a lungful of smoke. The next day when I woke up it felt like somebody was sitting on my chest." During the six-hour delay, train officials inspected the track to ensure it was safe to proceed.

On Monday, Klein-Hass went to the student medical clinic because she was having trouble breathing. The center has not reported an increase in the number of students reporting respiratory distress.

Brandy Rodriguez, medical assistant at the campus health center suggests that students watch the news and read the paper for air quality reports keep a medical mask handy to avoid inhalation of smoke and ash. "It's important to drink plenty of water," Rodriguez said. "Stay indoors in a well ventilated area." Students should be aware that with the high winds many areas are experiencing, there is a risk in every area. Anyone experiencing labored breathing or an

See *Fires* page 6



NASA IMAGE

VIEW FROM SPACE - View of the smoke billowing across the Pacific Ocean from the Southern California fires as seen from Earth's orbit. The photo was taken from the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer on the Terra satellite. NASA utilizes the spacecraft to document the Earth's climate systems.

Amnesty Club Seeks ASU Charter

■ Club leaders claim discrimination, unequal treatment by ASU.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

Student activists, Erin Noble and Noelle Halter have been working together to promote the Amnesty Club, an organization dedicated to promoting awareness about social injustice and other urgent political issues, but have been unsuccessful in receiving Associated Student Union support for the club.

This is the second attempt since last semester to promote the Amnesty Club, which at one point was a fairly successful organization on campus. The club eventually died out due to lack of student interest. Noble pointed out that it is a slow process, which requires a lot of patience, but she's still optimistic.

"I'm hoping Amnesty will be up and running in the next two weeks," Noble said. She

added that if she had to carry the whole thing through on her shoulders she would and that it's just a matter of getting the information out to students.

On Oct. 22, the last club day, the Feminist Majority Foundation had a table even though it's not run on campus, according to Noble. Noble said she supported their cause and signed their petition, but said

See *Amnesty* page 6

Colleges, Universities Face Cost Penalties

■ McKeon's Higher Education Act demands accountability for rising tuition costs.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Republican lawmakers introduced a bill into the House that would challenge postsecondary institutions across the nation to keep tuition increases in line with the rate of inflation. Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-Calif.), a senior member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, unveiled the Affordability in Higher Education Act that would hold colleges and universities accountable for unreasonable cost increases.

"I believe we can no longer stand by and allow hard-working students to miss out on the opportunity for a college degree," McKeon said. "The future of our nation requires that we move past the rhetoric and provide real reform — millions of students and families are depending on us."

California community colleges would be exempt from any penalties because their increase is less than \$500 and because it doesn't apply to the bottom percentage of institutions in any sector, said Linda Michalowski, interim vice chancellor for the California Community Colleges Student Services and Special Programs. Michalowski worked

with McKeon's staff prior to the introduction of the bill into the house.

"We have gone to extreme lengths to make sure our colleges stay affordable for everyone," Michalowski said. "We also wanted to make sure that we would not be subject to any penalties under this new bill."

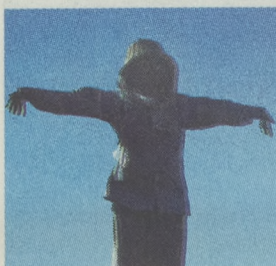
The bill establishes a College Affordability Index, a standard measure by which the consumers of higher education can understand and compare tuition increases in real terms. By comparing tuition and fee increases over a three-year period (2005-2008) to increases in the rate of inflation over that same period of time, it will empower consumers by giving them adequate information about the cost of college.

"Parents and students have been forced to endure skyrocketing tuition increases, making it harder to achieve the dream of a college education," McKeon said. "The college cost crisis is threatening to push higher education out of reach for low- and middle-income students."

Nearly two million low-income students would be barred from pursuing postsecondary degrees in the next decade if col-

See *Tuition* page 6

VALLEY LIFE PG. 4
I SEE DEAD PEOPLE
WHETHER IT BE SPINNING HEADS OR A STRANGE GUY WITH KNIVES ON HIS HAND, ALL TASTES ARE COVERED



SPORTS PG. 7
HEAD-ON COLLISION
WOMEN'S SOCCER GETS BACK INTO PROPER FORM WITH BACK-TO-BACK VICTORIES TO PUSH THEM INTO THE PLAYOFFS



GALLERY PG. 8
FIRE IN THE SKY
TAMMY ABBOTT FOLLOWS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIREMEN DURING THEIR FIGHT AGAINST THE SIMI VALLEY FIRE



NEWS REEL

TOWN HALL MEETING:

URS Project Director Alix O'Brien will present a progress report on the Valley College Propositions A and AA construction plans tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. in the Cafeteria Conference Room.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY:

The American Red Cross of Greater Los Angeles County offers tips to parents to protect their trick-or-treaters on Friday night. Always carry a flashlight, cross at corners, look both ways before crossing and only go to houses you are familiar with are among the recommendations. Inspect candy carefully before letting kids eat it.

9/11 INVESTIGATION:

Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-Conn) demands the White House comply with the investigation into the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Lieberman joined critics from both sides of the aisle in condemning the Administration for allegedly stalling the investigation.

Valley Awarded Scholarship

■ \$30,000 scholarship to promote family literacy.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

The National Center for Family Literacy announced Valley College alumnus Sean Astin as the Verizon Literacy Champion in support of the national quest to improve family literacy Wednesday at Monarch Hall.

Astin graduated from Valley College in 1996 and later earned a degree in history and American literature from the University of California, Los Angeles.

The actor has appeared in several films, including his acting debut opposite his mother, Patty Duke, in "Please Don't Hit Me, Mom," "The Goonies" (1984), "Rudy" (1993), and most recently as the trustworthy sidekick Samwise Gamgee in "Lord

of the Rings."

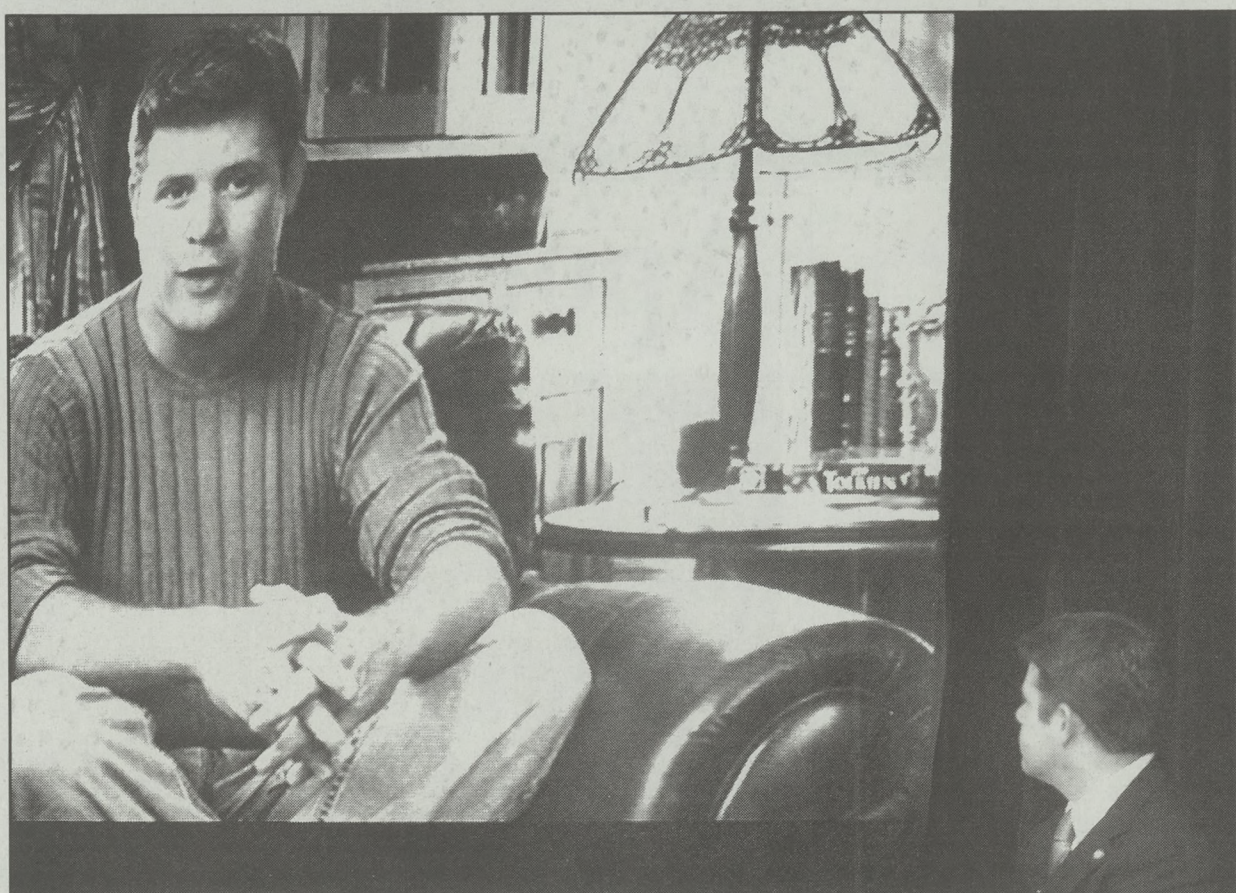
More than 200 students, faculty members and program supporters packed the hall to standing-room-only capacity.

Astin joined community leaders, Verizon corporate representatives and the president of The National Center for Family Literacy in presenting Valley College the Sean and Christine Astin Literacy Champion Scholarship worth \$30,000.

Literacy is Verizon's main corporate initiative, said Vice President of External Affairs LaVerne Davis, who led the ceremony.

Special guest speakers included Valley President Tyree Wieder, Sharon Darling, president and founder of the NCFL.

See *Literacy* page 6



ALUMNUS RETURNS - Actor Sean Astin, seated, watches one of his public service announcements advocating adult literacy in Monarch hall Oct. 22.

Valley Star Shines at Journalism Contest

■ Valley College newspaper staff picks up 28 honors at competition at Cal State Fullerton.

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
OPINION EDITOR

The Valley Star received a school-record 28 awards, including its second consecutive for General Excellence, at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges Southern Conference Oct. 19 at California State University, Fullerton.

Staff photographer Jorge Gallegos walked away with five honors, including first place for Mail-in Photo Essay and Mail-in Sports Feature Photo. Valley Life Editor Tammy Abbott and Editor-in-Chief Krista Carlson took first place in the On-The-Spot Team Feature competition for their photo-

and-text collaboration.

"It's exhilarating," Carlson said, echoing the sentiments of a proud Valley Star staff.

The journalism conference gave students across the state an opportunity to hone their skills in on-the-spot competitions and workshops over a two-day period. Los Angeles Times photojournalist Don Barletti and other professionals shared advice and experience with students, giving them a glimpse of where their efforts might lead.

"Just getting Honorable Mention helps me to know I'm going in the right direction," staff writer Susan Maltby said.

Journalism Awards Won by The Valley Star

General Excellence for Spring 2003

Mail-In

First Place

Photo Essay- Jorge Gallegos
Sports Feature Photo - Jorge Gallegos

Feature Photo- Alex Dash

Second Place

News Photo- Jorge Gallegos

Third Place

Illustration- Sterling Andrews
Photo Essay- Benjamin Favela and Samantha Kuppig

News Photo- Kevin Cortez

Staff Editorial- Ben Jauron

Sports Game Story- Jayson Addcox

Critical Review- Kathy Arellano

Bring-In Photo- Gaby Alonzo

Fourth Place

Illustration- Sterling Andrews

Honorable Mention

Editorial Cartoon- Tiffany Farmakis

News Photo- Jorge Gallegos

Feature Photo (2) - Tammy Abbott

News- Serena Daniels

Investigative News- Ben Jauron

Sports Action Photo- Tammy Abbott

Spot Competitions

First Place

Team Feature- Krista Carlson and Tammy Abbott

Second Place

Critical Review- Michael Ordone

Third Place

News Photo- Jorge Gallegos

Honorable Mention

News- Vincent Brucia

News- Michael Ordone

Editorial- Susan Maltby

News Photo- Benjamin Favela

Feature- Benjamin Favela

Valley Wins Second Federal Grant to Fund STARS Project

■ \$341,555 grant presented to Valley College to launch education program.

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Department of Education awarded \$341,555 from its "Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education" to launch the Strategic Team for the Advancement and Retention of Students program.

Writing Center Director Deborah Harrington authored the grant with input from Dr. Cherine Trombley, associate dean in the office of research and planning, and Dr. Deborah diCesare, dean of economic development.

"This fostering of mutual self-respect and awareness amongst STARS faculty and

students is the most important and exciting challenge that faces me as project director for the FIPSE grant," Harrington said. "The very act of students and faculty meeting together outside class to review subject-specific skills and strategies invites stu-

"This grant will go a long way toward helping eliminate these stumbling blocks that stand in the way of more effective learning."

dents to become more aware and self-reflective."

The program's focus is to improve success, retention and program completion rates for all students at Valley and to help students become better learners by utilizing time both in and out

of the classroom, according to Harrington.

"There is not enough class time to mentor students over the course of a content-packed semester," Harrington said. "This grant will go a long way toward helping eliminate these stumbling blocks that stand in the way of more effective learning."

The grant funds will also enable students to attend workshops and seminars with leading national and international experts to learn how different teaching and learning approaches can impact a student's learning.

"We are honored and excited that Valley College was awarded this very competitive national grant," diCesare said.

Lecture Promotes Key to Successful Stress Managing

■ Knowing your own limitations emphasized by clinical psychologist.

BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS
STAFF WRITER

Dr. Carl King, Valley College clinical psychologist, conducted a lecture Wednesday to educate students about managing stress, a problem that impacts a majority of the population.

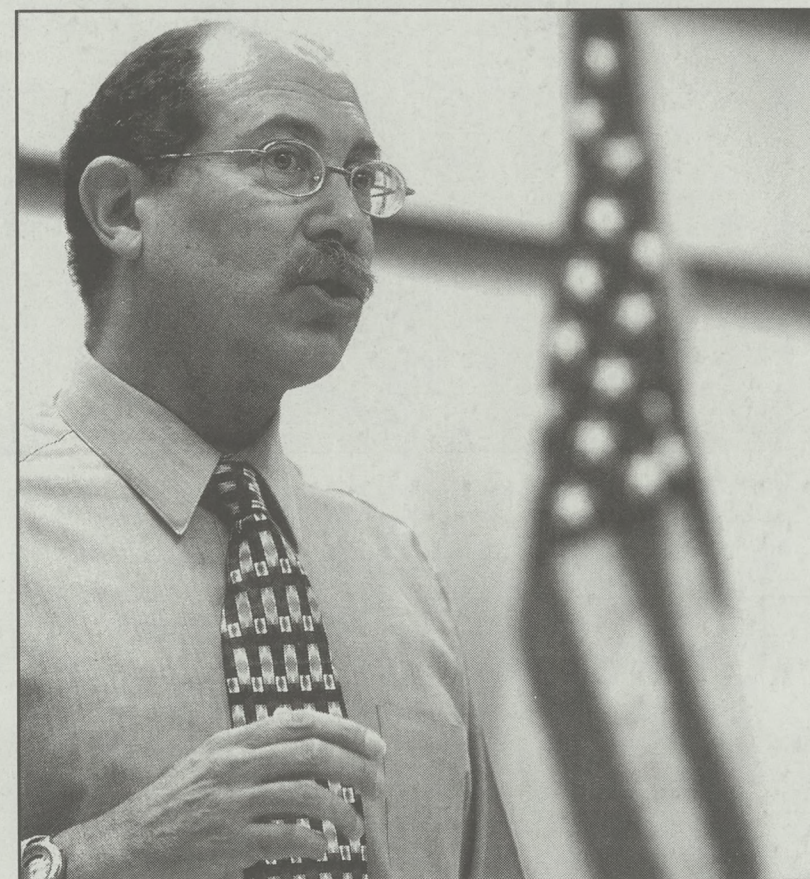
An estimated 75 percent of people experience some form of stress every two weeks, according to the National Health Interview survey.

"All students experience stress," King said. "It's important for students to know how to manage that stress so they can do their best in school and reach their full academic potential."

A majority of all doctor visits are due to stress-related problems including backache, insomnia, anxiety, depression, chest pain, hypertension and headache, according to the American Psychological Association. Stress can also lead to the development of alcoholism, obesity, suicide, drug or cigarette addiction and other harmful behaviors.

A recent study by the American Heart Association revealed that high levels of stress can lead to heart disease, high blood pressure, heart attack or stroke. However, not all stress is bad.

King pointed out that stress can have a positive side too. Some nervousness before an exam can allow students to become more alert and that extra adrenaline may help them do better. Yet experiencing too much stress can be inhibiting, causing some students to perform poorly.



BOB TEICHMANN/VALLEY STAR

STRESS LECTURE - Dr. Carl King discusses the causes and effects of stress at a special lecture in the ASU Conference Center Oct. 22.

Throughout the lecture, King spoke of the importance of knowing your own limitations and not being afraid to ask for help when needed.

"A lecture like this is very helpful for students, especially those that are full time," nursing student Elizabeth Balde said. "They don't realize how much stress they're going through or how to express it. It allows students to realize that there is help out there."

Simple things like eating three meals a day, sleeping at least eight hours and keeping up

with your overall physical fitness are proven stress reducers. Knowing when to relax is also crucial, King said.

"Sometimes you have to schedule fun and recreational activities in your day," King said. "Everyone needs a break."

For more information on stress management or to see a psychologist contact the Student Psychological Services at (818) 778-5504. All services are free to students and will remain confidential.

Classroom Use of Cell Phones Disruptive

Professors have different viewpoints on classroom usage of cellular phones.

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

A large portion of the more than 70 million American wireless phone users are college students, reports the Cellular Telecommunications & Internet Association.

At Valley College many students carry cell phones. Teachers and students say ringing phones in the classroom can be a nuisance and distraction mainly because of the interruption they cause. Some instructors penalize students when their phones ring during classes or exams.

"I deduct points if a student's

phone rings during an exam,"

"There's a misconception that because community college is more affordable, students should have lower expectations..."

math professor Sheri Berger said. She feels strongly that the classroom is no place for cell phones and she enforces this rule out of respect for all of the students by lowering the offender's grade.

Psychology professor Steven Sachs also regards classroom cell phone use as serious offense

See *Phones* page 6

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OPINION

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STAFF EDITORIAL

The USA PATRIOT Act and You

THE PATRIOT ACT: TRUE OR FALSE

Ask yourself if you think the following statements are true or false.

1. The e-mails you send and the websites you visit can be monitored even if you are not suspected of a crime.
2. Your public school and college records can be obtained by law enforcement officials without your knowledge.
3. Your bank is required to share your daily transactions with the government.
4. The FBI has access to your library records.
5. FBI agents can spy in churches even if there is no evidence of criminal activity.
6. Police officers can search your home without notice and without your knowledge.
7. Your medical records can be released without your permission even if you are not under suspicion.

Believe it or not -- they're all true. The PATRIOT Act can affect your life in many ways you may not realize.

Source: American Civil Liberties Union (www.aclu.org)

Pericles, one of the fathers of democracy, said, "Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you."

It's not for nothing that the ACLU uses this quote on its anti-USA PATRIOT Act pages. And yet Americans — especially students — seem blithely unaware of just how much this shockingly invasive legislation can affect them.

After 9/11, Attorney General John Ashcroft sought to dramatically broaden the criteria by which someone could be considered a terrorist. Thus was born the USA PATRIOT Act (see related story in News, Page 1), a sweeping expansion of the government's right to spy on American citizens without a warrant. Now book buying and borrowing records, as well as academic and even medical records are fair game without so much as suspicion of a crime.

Since most people aren't considering bombing a building or assassinating a diplomat, they don't think PATRIOT concerns them. They are sadly mistaken.

The American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers says that about 200 colleges and universities have turned over student information to the FBI, INS and other law enforcement officials.

If you have considered joining student activist organizations, consider this: Minnesota's Hennepin County Sheriff named the student groups "Anti-Racist Action" and "Students Against the War" potential terrorist threats.

Being labeled a potential terrorist is not as much fun as some might imagine. PATRIOT II, the so-called Super Patriot Act, would allow for the secret arrest and stripping of citizen-

ship rights from those even suspected of terrorism.

One of the architects of this house of horrors, former Asst. Attorney General Viet Dinh, likes to point out that we haven't lost a life in the homeland due to foreign terrorism since PATRIOT was enacted. How do you describe this argument? Congenital idiocy? Unmitigated gall?

Dinh and his fellow Sith Lords hope our minds are too

weak to remember the 225 years before 9/11 in which foreign terrorism didn't claim lives on American soil. Apparently Ashcroft's drooling acolytes need to take elementary statistics to learn that correlation does not imply causation.

If all this seems improbable, don't forget that only hours after the Sept. 11 attacks, none other than Ronald Reagan's Secretary of State, James Baker, was all over the networks complaining that "We have too many civil liberties in this country." Talk about the terrorists winning.

Fortunately, opposition to this downright un-American legislation is widespread on both sides of the aisle.

"[We] have eviscerated the 14th Amendment because we will allow the government to gather evidence of people without suspecting a crime," Bob Barr, a conservative Republican and former U.S. representative from Georgia, told Foxnews.com.

There are at least 14 bills moving through Congress that challenge, restrict or refuse to fund portions of the Act, but Ashcroft scoffs at complaints that he and his orc army have grievously infringed on our civil rights. He told a Senate Judiciary Committee, critics who "scare

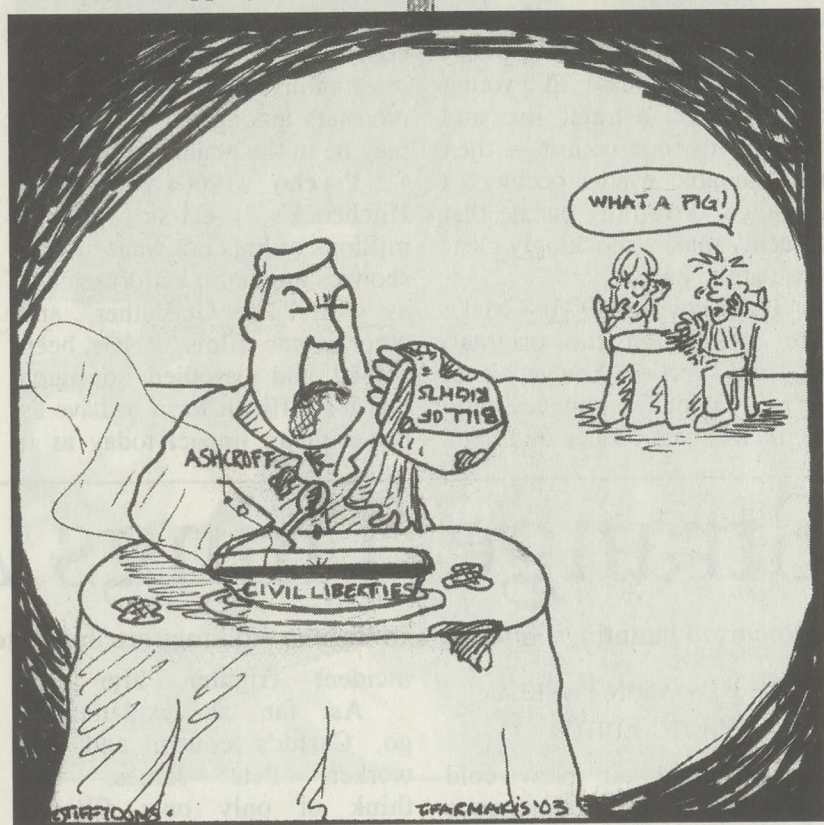


ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

WHAT DOES THE USA PATRIOT ACT DO?

Here are some of the controversial provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act.

- Expands terrorism laws to include "domestic terrorism" which could subject political organizations to surveillance, wiretapping, harassment, and criminal action for political advocacy.
- Expands the ability of law enforcement to conduct secret searches, gives them wide powers of phone and Internet surveillance, and access to highly personal medical, financial, mental health, and student records with minimal judicial oversight.
- Allows FBI Agents to investigate American citizens for criminal matters without probable cause of crime if they say it is for "intelligence purposes."
- Permits non-citizens to be jailed based on mere suspicion and to be denied re-admission to the U.S. for engaging in free speech.
- Suspects convicted of no crime may be detained indefinitely in six-month increments without meaningful judicial review.

Source: American Civil Liberties Union (www.aclu.org)

See PATRIOT page 6

ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

EACH WEEK, THE VALLEY STAR EXAMINES AN ISSUE FROM TWO SIDES.

THIS WEEK: DO AMERICAN WORKERS EXPECT TOO MUCH COMPENSATION FROM THEIR EMPLOYERS?

I SMELL BIG BUSINESS

BY SUSAN MALTBY
STAFF WRITER

"Something smells like big business," said SpongeBob Squarepants as he approached Mr. Krabs' huge new jellyfish jelly factory.

Mr. Krabs, SpongeBob's boss at The Krusty Krab restaurant, had kidnapped all the jellyfish in Bikini Bottom to steal their jam for his crabby patties. Mr. Krabs was exploiting the jellyfish in order to make more money than his competition, The Chum Bucket café.

The jellyfish eventually became over-squeezed and ill, which resulted in lowered jelly production. Unfortunately, the jellyfish in Bikini Bottom didn't have the backbone to form a union to protect their rights, and Mr. Krabs' jelly business ultimately failed.

This poignant cartoon scene illustrates an important point in light of current labor disputes: American workers are not jellyfish.

This is one of the wealthiest nations in the world. There is more than enough money in this country to ensure adequate health care for every man, woman and child living here today, especially for any person

willing to work for it.

Any person who works for 40 hours each week for 35 years deserves to have a decent pension as well.

Forbes magazine lists the corporations behind the major grocery chains among the most profitable companies in America. The top four grocery chains here have a strong hold on the majority of market profit earnings in California.

If unions accept the employers' proposal to cut their existing health care programs and wages, they will lose now and can expect more cuts in the future.

Corporate executives, like those from Enron, Tyco and now Rite Aid have made headlines with their illegal actions. The workers don't really know how much the company books have been baked, fried or sautéed.

"No one is on strike over [the employers' requested \$5 contribution to health care premiums] - that's a sneaky, misguided P.R. plan by the supermarkets to say that we are - there's far more at stake than that," said Rick Icaza, president of United Food and Workers Union Local 770, which has more than 30,000 members throughout Los Angeles.

The employers are asking workers to take pay cuts and sacrifice their hard-won benefits, claiming that the company doesn't have the money.

It's just plain foolish for workers to put their faith in the fiscal reports of the titans of industry.

Workers have to earn enough money to afford a decent standard of living, go to the dentist and doctor regularly and to raise healthy, well-educated children.

If unions accept the employers' proposal to cut their existing health care programs and wages, they will lose now and can expect more cuts in the future.

Union action is the only effective way to ensure that Big Business doesn't unfairly exploit the very people who dedicate their lives to a job that contributes to company success.

Let the company executives figure out a way to increase profitability without cutting worker salaries and benefits. That's why they pay them the big bucks.

Every American has a guaranteed right to bear picket signs and the backbone to stand united for a common good.

Without the effort and dedication of union workers, we'd have nothing left but the Chum Bucket.

CALIFORNIANS STRIKE OUT

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Californians are not happy campers. Economists have reported that the MTA and supermarket strikes have cost not only strikers but others who work in Southern California approximately \$60 million in lost wages. Drivers are facing some of the worst gridlock in recent memory and shoppers are angry at having to find alternative supermarkets.

When more than 2,000 MTA mechanics walked off the job, followed by 6,000 bus drivers and clerks in support, they left about 40,000 Californians in the lurch. The MTA pays nearly \$17 million every year to purchase health insurance for employees and retirees but because of union mismanagement, the fund is near bankruptcy. Despite this, the MTA is offering to pay an additional \$4.7 million to help keep it afloat, according to MTA spokesman Marc Littman. Requesting nominal contributions from mechanics, who currently pay a meager \$6 per month, is only fair.

The 70,000 striking grocery clerks are also dancing with the devil on the healthcare dilemma and are now threat-

ening lawsuits for their lost wages. In both labor disputes, the companies are only asking employees to share some of the financial responsibility for their own health care. Employees of the food chains currently pay no premiums and pay only \$10 for doctor visits and prescriptions. Their employers are requesting a mere \$5 a week for individuals and \$15 a week for families, which to me sounds like a damn good deal.

My family pays \$600 per month for a family of four for health care with a \$6,000 deductible per year, plus a \$40 co-pay each time any of us steps through the door of the doctor's office. Considering those numbers, my sympathy dwindles rather rapidly.

Here is the real world in a nutshell: Bills come in — you have to pay them. You buy a car you realize you can't afford — you look for a more lucrative job so you can make the payments or you get rid of the car. You get

sick — you go to the doctor.

Should doctors treat patients for free? Of course not. They've spent years and thousands of dollars on their education. Hospitals spend millions on equipment and staff. Should you have to contribute something towards your own health care? Of course you should. Imagine bearing these costs entirely out of your own pocket and see how you feel about paying the small portion they're requesting.

Health care is one of the fastest rising costs in the nation and for employees not to expect to share some of the burden is flat-out unrealistic. If you don't like what they're offering, get another job. If you want to work, put down the picket signs and face the reality that somewhere along the way the free ride ends.

My suggestion to these strikers is to go back to work before their employers take the next step — layoffs in lieu of health care benefits.

Letter to the Editor

RE: "ONE WAY OR ANOTHER - SHOULD UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS BE ELIGIBLE TO OBTAIN DRIVER'S LICENSES?" (OCT. 8)

It is a shame that people are so quick to put all undocumented immigrants in one big bunch and discriminate against them. Instead of going along with the exaggerations and lies that are factored against them, they should educate themselves and find the facts.

These people are not here to harm anyone. They are here pursuing a dream of either working for a better life, or trying to stay close to their family. People never talk about the immigrant that is in the process of being legal. These people are allowed to remain in the country but are unable to work, study, drive, obtain medical insurance or any of the like.

If they pursue higher education they are faced with fees of more than \$300 per unit at a community college and with little or no hope for a transfer to a university. They are many times denied medical insurance because of the lack of a SSN.

And of course they can't even drive to their destination. These people suffer through all of this in order to stay close to the people they love and in many cases for over 12 years before they are given a conclusive answer.

These undocumented immigrants should be treated with more respect, they are a part of society and whether people like it or not they are consumers in our economy. They might work illegally but they are all contributing to the country, not just the state.

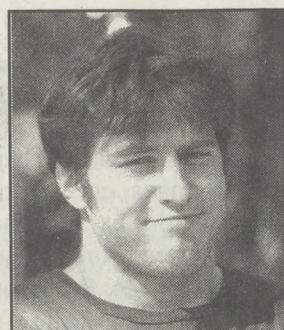
Don't they deserve respect? Don't they deserve to meet their basic needs? They might after all one day become citizens of this country.

We are the land of the free, or does that just apply to a limited and privileged few? And if that is the case, are we really a nation of liberty and justice for all?

LUPE MARTINEZ
ART MAJOR

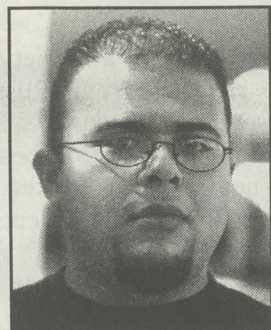
Campus View

PHOTOS BY JORDAN DINAPOLI



"I strongly support the strikes because employees deserve the benefits."

Adam Caruthers



"Yes they do. They do not work as hard when they're in the union."

Efrein Gonzales



"Depends on the labor union. For the most part, I don't think so."

Becca Kullis



"I want this damn strike to end. I think it's ridiculous that they assume complete control of the funds."

Michael Tannenbaum

Do labor unions expect too much?

CAMPUS SCENE

Wednesday Oct. 29

Club Day
Monarch Square
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
and
Club Night
5 p.m. - 9 pm.

Sukkot Celebration
Monarch Square
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Please bring canned food
for SOVA food drive.

Thursday, October 30

Velas Brazilian Jazz
Music Recital Hall
11:30 a.m.

Halloween Celebration
Monarch Square

Friday, October 31

Deadline for Day of the
Child Mentor Applications
Turn in at CC104

Happy Halloween!

Get the Popcorn and Scare Yourself Stupid

A guide to 10 nightmare-inducing films available at your local video store.

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
OPINION EDITOR

The pumpkins are perched, the witches are bewitching and children everywhere are dressing up to perform satanic rituals — 'Tis the season to scare yourself stupid with some of the most terrifying movies ever made. Don't watch them alone!

Alien (1979) — Brilliantly employing an outstanding cast, German artist H.R. Giger's freaky "biomechanical" visions and the claustrophobic confines of a space tanker, director Ridley Scott created a constantly surprising classic of science fiction horror.

Audition (2000 — Japanese) — Imagine a sitcom of which the first episode is directed by David Lynch and the last, by the Marquis de Sade. NOT FOR THE SQUEAMISH.

The Blair Witch Project (1999) — As this ultra-low budget gem is shot entirely by the characters themselves, you see only what they see as they gather footage for a documentary on a local legend, the Blair Witch, and make discoveries that they soon wish they hadn't.

Don't Look Now (1973) — Avant-garde British director Nicolas Roeg imbues this adaptation of a Daphne DuMaurier story with pitch-perfect creepiness. A young couple suffers a tragic loss and struggles to cope with it — then unexplainable events occur. It's a strange, disturbing puzzle that suddenly makes shockingly clear sense at the end.

The Exorcist (1973) — Make sure you watch the original, not "The Version You've Never Seen," which unnecessarily lengthens some scenes and adds

some unintentionally comical special effects. By the way, there actually is a position akin to "chief exorcist" in the Vatican.

Halloween (1978) — It changed horror movies forever, mostly for the worse, but this brutally effective slasher flick still makes the cut. Forget all the sequels. They never happened.

Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1978) — This superior remake of the late-'50s classic confirms the nagging suspicion most of us have that there are monsters among us — and they may be in the majority.

Psycho (1960) — Alfred Hitchcock's classic made millions of kids not want to take showers anymore. Unfortunately,

as with "The Godfather" and other iconic films, it has been copied and parodied so much that it's difficult for it to have as powerful an impact today as it

did 43 years ago. Still, once you get into the story, you're in the hands of a master.

Rosemary's Baby (1968) — Roman Polanski's adaptation of Ira Levin's novel works its way under your skin and won't come out. It chronicles the strange events that befall a young couple as they settle into a new life and await their first child.

Scream (1996) — Although it is homage almost to the point of parody (and has itself been parodied mercilessly in the "Scary Movie" series), "Scream" is one of the savviest, sharpest horror movies ever made. One can even forgive the utter vapidness of the cast once the ball starts rolling. Jiffy Pop, anyone?

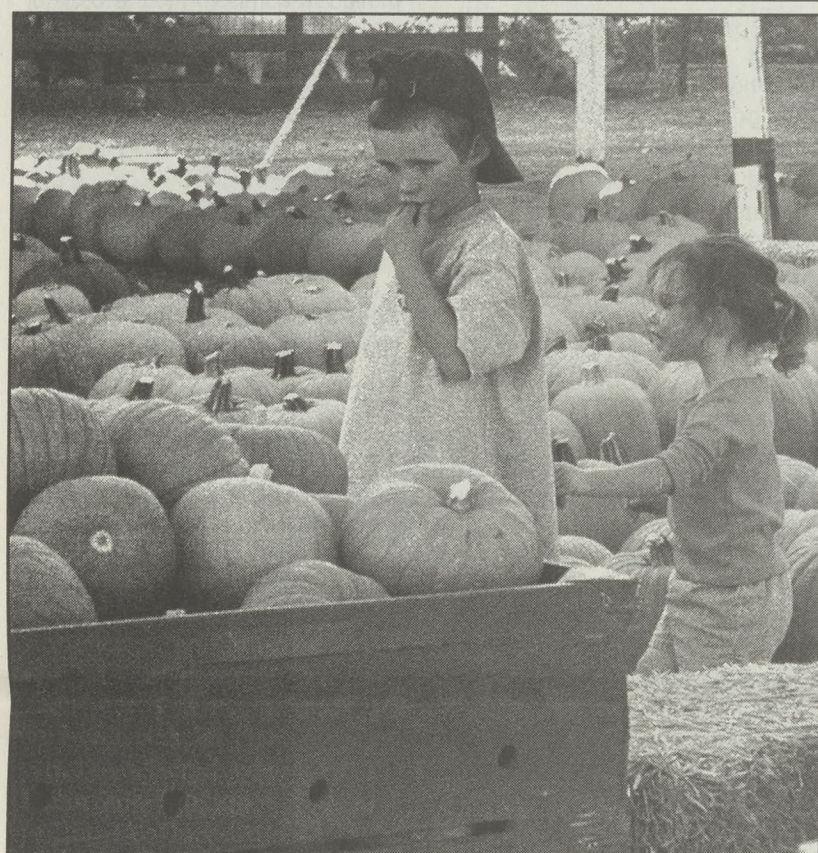
Session 9 (2000) — The premise: A hazardous materials removal team has to work at a breakneck pace to remove asbestos panels. By the way, the

worksite is an isolated, long-abandoned insane asylum. Sweet dreams.

That's one writer's opinion ... Here are the **Top 10 Scariest Movies** as voted on by the Valley Star staff:

THE TOP 10 SCARIEST MOVIES

1. THE EXORCIST
2. PSYCHO
3. THE SHINING
- 4(T). THE OTHERS
- 4(T). THE SIXTH SENSE
6. SEVEN
7. THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS
8. HALLOWEEN
9. ALIEN
- 10(T). THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT
- 10(T). POLTERGEIST



GABY ALONSO/VALLEY STAR

PUMPKINS GALORE — A visual cornucopia to help bring the Halloween spirit alive at the Tapia Brothers Pumpkin Patch.

Strange Things Afoot at LAVC

Reported hauntings in music and theatre buildings attributed to a 1991 suicide on campus.

BY BENJAMIN FAVELA
PHOTO EDITOR

The night air blew cold one evening as maintenance custodian Joe Carter sat down to play the piano. Carter had finished his duties for the day, so he took the opportunity to play the piano in the empty music building, as he often does.

All of the students and professors left for the day and Carter checked all the doors in the building. Every one was locked, and Carter was alone. Or so he thought.

"I went to practice, and I checked all the doors," Carter said. "They were all locked. Then suddenly the doorway to at the end opened up and slammed shut."

Carter began practicing, intent on not letting the

incident frighten him off.

As far as explanations go, Carter's cousin and co-worker, Pete James, can think of only one: Ghosts.

James attributes the haunting to a mysterious suicide at Valley College 12 years ago outside of the theater building adjacent to the music building.

No official records were found for the suicide, but sheriff's office manager Nora Geller remembers it perfectly.

"The body was discovered in the morning," Geller said.

"They found him in a chair with the rope tied around his neck attached to the railing."

The suicide victim had no connections to Valley, according to Geller.

Ever since then, many believe the theater building has

been afflicted with strange noises and odd temperature changes.

"We get those all the time," said Pete Parkin, theater arts department chair. "Behind the light booth we hear footsteps and it is oddly cold there; and high heels can be heard walking across the main stage."

Ghost stories are universal. They can be found in every society in the world and have been around for centuries, from the Tower of London to the Winchester Mansion in San Jose, Calif.

One of the oldest known records of a ghost is in the Babylonian story, "The Epic of Gilgamesh," in which the hero, Gilgamesh, speaks to the shadow of his recently deceased friend, Enkidu.

More than a third of

Americans believe in ghosts and other paranormal phenomena such as clairvoyance and extra-terrestrial activity, according to a 1999 Gallup poll reported in the Morning Sun of Pittsburg, Kan.

"I had a friend who died," student Jacqueline Canlanan said, "and one night we were talking about him and then we heard strange noises, like he was with us."

"I don't think about them," Valley president Tyree Wieder said. "I scare too easily, which probably means that I do believe in them."

Carter and James disagree on the existence of things that go bump in the night. "I believe in ghosts," James said. "They can be good or bad."

"I don't believe in ghosts," Carter said, "They're demons."

Take A Hike:
Walking the Los Angeles River

BY KATHY ARELLANO, STAFF WRITER

Imagine stepping through the Great Heron Gates — artist Brett Goldstone's ironwork tribute to the river's wildlife — and walking for miles, enjoying the sights and sounds of a healthy, 51-mile-long waterway that flows from the west end of the San Fernando Valley to the ocean at Long Beach, traversing 25 communities along the way.

This is a part of the Los Angeles River Greenway project; a work in progress that architects envisioned more than 75 years ago and present-day advocates are continuing.

Stretches of the river trail start and stop, but exploring even part of this historic river — one that provided water to settlers as far back as a thousand years ago — is a fun way to spend the day.

There is a natural ecosystem in the three remaining stretches of "soft bottom" (semi-natural) river areas. One is in Long Beach. The other two, Sepulveda Basin and Frogtown in the Atwater-Los Feliz area are very accessible from Valley College.

The Sepulveda Basin has a variety of recreation opportunities, including three 18-hole golf

courses, a small lake with rentable paddleboats and a launch for privately owned, non-motorized boats. Picnic areas and paved walking and biking paths throughout the park and down to the river are ideal places to unwind.

From Valley College take Burbank Boulevard west to Balboa. Turn right and head north, crossing a

bridge over the L.A. River.

Turn right at the drive leading to the Sepulveda Dam Recreation Area and park at the farthest southeast corner of the lot. There you can access a flat fire road that leads to paths closer in to the river's edge.

Frogtown, named long ago for the many frogs at the river's edge, is the soft bottom area between Griffith Park and downtown. From Valley, take your favorite southbound route to the Pasadena-Golden State Freeway overpass near Riverside and Fletcher drives. Once on Fletcher Drive, park on the street and look for the beautiful ironwork gates that lead into the newly developed Rattlesnake Park. Walk, jog or bike along a serpentine, flat gravel path or sit on an S-shaped bench to read or enjoy the natural plant life there. Your leashed dog is welcomed, too.

For Greenway Project information, visit the Los Angeles River Center, located at 570 W. Ave. 26 near San Fernando Road or visit the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy online at www.smmc.ca.gov

See the next installment of "Take a Hike": Brand Trail in Glendale.



GABY ALONSO/VALLEY STAR

RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT — Many people don't know that the L.A. River, hidden by Balboa Park, runs through Balboa Boulevard.

THE CROWN TRIO
ENCHANTS
VALLEY COLLEGE

BENJAMIN FAVELA/VALLEY STAR

MUSICAL JEWELS — The members of the Crown Trio (l-r), violinist Mari Haig, pianist Beth Nakao and cellist Karen Linkletter, play classical and contemporary pieces during their concert in the Music Recital Hall Thursday.

BY PETER O'CONNOR
STAFF WRITER

A late morning delight left the crowd wanting more music and demanding an encore performance in the music recital hall Thursday. Valley College music department and the Associated Student Union presented The Crown Trio, a group of old friends consisting of violinist Mari Haig, cellist Karen Linkletter and pianist Beth Nakao.

The concert featured six songs from a vast repertoire of music. Although brief, the

program covered a variety of genres ranging from Russian composer Anton Arensky's, Trio in D minor, Op.32, to a beautiful "When a Gypsy Makes His Violin Cry," by Emery Deutsch. Elton John's 1970 release of "Your Song" was a crowd favorite and people around the room were lip-synching as the cello and violin brought color to the masterpiece.

Violinist Mari Haig founded the Crown Trio in 2000 with the goal of creating a new, more entrepreneurial artistic venue with two friends, like-minded classical musicians. Trained

in the classical tradition and established in mainstream musical careers, the three members sought an outlet that reflected the rapid changes occurring in the music world as evidenced by the crossover work of such artists as Yo-Yo Ma, the Kronos Quartet and the Anh Trio.

The three women took turns offering a brief history on their selections and how each song would be performed. A grateful, crowded house went with smiles and a great mood into the hot Thursday afternoon.

Canned Spam: Senate Votes to Outlaw Unwanted E-mail

■ Bill to fine senders of unsolicited e-mails.

By VINCENT BRUCIA
STAFF WRITER

The U.S. Senate approved a bill by a 97-0 vote on that would outlaw the distribution of unsolicited commercial e-mail known as "spam" Oct. 22.

"This is a first step toward giving consumers back control of their e-mail inboxes," Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) said to the San Francisco Chronicle.

The "Can Spam" bill, sponsored by Sens. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) would only apply to fraudulent e-mails that lure consumers with misleading subject lines promoting the likes of herbal remedies, pornography, prescription drugs and sexual organ enhancement products.

In a stipulation proposed by Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) the bill would also set up a nationwide do-not-spam registry similar to the do-not-call list of phone numbers that the Federal Trade Commission established earlier this month for telemarketers to honor.

Violators could face fines of \$25 to \$300 per e-mail and a year in jail; repeat offenders could face prison sentences of up to five years.

"I used to have Hotmail and it was miserable," Valley College nursing student Jenny Baumann said. "I would have 50 new messages every time I logged on. Now I use Earthlink and they're pretty good about blocking trash. I'd never go back to Hotmail."

The White House said President Bush would sign the bill if it passed through the House of Representatives where similar legislation has stalled in the past.

The law would replace anti-spam legislation already passed by 35 states, which in some

cases like California, is actually tougher. Critics say it won't work because it will be too difficult to enforce. Most spammers use stolen identities or operate overseas. The Senate didn't give individuals the right to sue but left enforcement to the FTC and Internet service providers.

Some Internet service providers have taken more measures than others to appease frustrated customers. Yahoo offers a service that allows a subscriber to create 500 variations on a fictitious name to use for online

"My inbox is so overloaded I'm afraid of it."

shopping. If a certain address gets overloaded with spam it could simply be deleted.

The FTC found that spam now accounts for an estimated 45 percent of all e-mail and costs U.S. companies \$10 billion a year from employees wasting time sifting through the muck, according to a study by Ferris Research. Seventy-seven percent of Yahoo users said they would rather clean a toilet than sort through the junk e-mail in their inboxes, an August survey conducted by Yahoo's marketing research department revealed.

A quarter of people surveyed said they are cutting their e-mail use and 75 percent said they are bothered they can't stop the flood of spam, according to a study by the Pew Internet & American Life Project released on the same day the Senate passed the bill.

"When I first set up an e-mail account I didn't know what I was doing and would respond to some ridiculous offers," art history student Kari Randall said. "Now my inbox is so overloaded I'm afraid of it, and I don't bother using e-mail as much."

'Strike' continued from page 1

board that administers it.

The offer includes no wage increases for the first year and raises of 2.5 percent in each of the two years after that.

Public transportation came to an abrupt halt Oct. 14 when MTA mechanics walked off the job after working without a contract for 17 months. Bus and train operators work under a separate union, the United Transportation Union, but have refused to cross

mechanic's picket lines to work.

"My mechanics haven't had a raise in four years and we're tired of it," ATU President Neil Silver said. "We're tired of the baloney from this company, we're tired of them spending their money on their favorite projects and consultants and we want a fair shake."

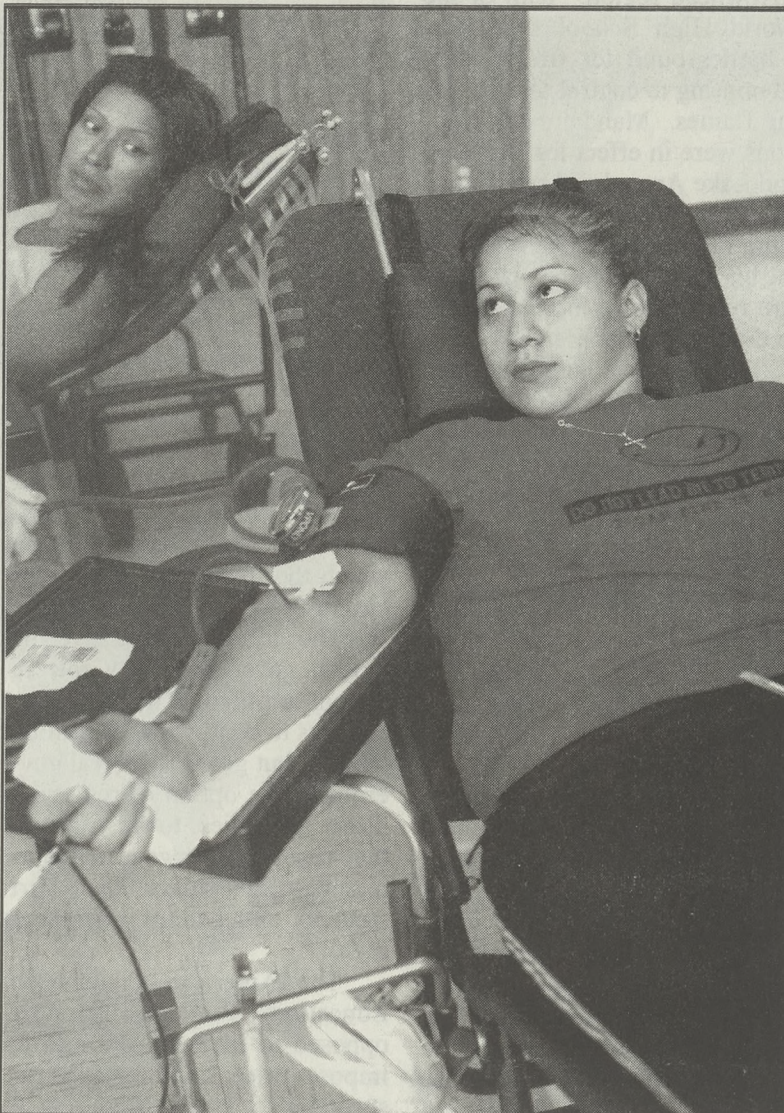
MTA board chairman, Zev Yaroslavsky felt optimistic about the progress made by both sides

after recent talks.

"There are issues other than money here," Yaroslavsky said. "I think we can address those and come to an agreement."

Many students rely on the MTA and are eager for the strike to end, like broadcasting student Denise Mendez. "I've had to depend on family and friends for rides since the strike started. I'm a studio photographer and my job transferred me to another location

so I could work, but they're getting fed up with it," Mendez said. "I hope everything gets back to normal soon."



JORDAN DINAPOLI/VALLEY STAR

Valley College collected blood from 30 donors at its' most successful blood drive in history Oct. 20. The American Red Cross sponsored the blood drive held at Monarch Hall.

"We are extremely pleased with the turnout," said Patricia LeBlanc, Red Cross donor resources development consultant. LeBlanc said she would like to hold two blood drives each year at Valley, rather than just one, but that "the health office at Valley is a little swamped right now."

Each unit of blood can be divided into three products to potentially save 90 lives.

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Campus Crime

By JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Tires Slashed on Burbank

A witness reported a woman getting out of her car and slashing the tires of two vehicles, a Ford Mustang and a Toyota Camry, parked on Burbank Boulevard just outside of parking Lot H Thursday. The case has been turned over to the Los Angeles Police Department because the crime occurred on a city street.

Transient Arrested for Weapons Possession

Campus Security arrested a transient on weapons charges this month. An officer on routine patrol initially approached the man's vehicle parked in Lot G because of its dark tinted windows and cracked windshield. When the officer asked for a driver's license the suspect told the officer it was in the rear of the vehicle. The suspect then told the officer that he had a .177 BB gun and several knives in the rear compartment. The officer retrieved the driver's license and found a large quantity of pornographic magazines, photographs of naked women and a 16" billy club with a chain lanyard attached to one end — Possession of which is a felony offense. Police took the suspect to the Lost Hills Sheriff Department for booking.

Burglaries Continue in Campus Lots

Nine more cars have been burglarized around campus parking lots bringing the total to 26 vehicles since the beginning of the school semester. Police have added more patrols throughout the campus.

Police are asking students that have either lost or had parking passes stolen to report it immediately to the Campus Sheriff's Department at 947-2911.

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'Patriot'

continued from page 3

peace-loving people with phantoms of lost liberty only aid terrorists, for they erode our national unity and diminish our resolve."

You can display your resolve by participating in the ACLU's National Week of Student Action to Oppose the PATRIOT Act (Oct. 26-Nov. 2). The nearest event is currently scheduled for November 1 at Occidental College, but new events are being added every day. For details, go to www.aclu.org and click on the "Student Action" banner.

What else can you do? Contact your student government or administration. Start a petition or organize a rally in protest. But the most important things to do are to educate yourself and to let your elected representatives know that you're angry and you vote. Send your representative a prepared fax or e-mail by going to www.aclu.org/safeandfree and choosing from the "Act" menu.

Cynics say that the government has been spying on its citizens forever. Perhaps, but in the past, such actions were illegal — if you could prove that they did it, you had recourse to the law. Today, thanks to PATRIOT, they can do it and if you ever find out, there's absolutely nothing you can do.

The bottom line for American citizens is this: Now that you know the government can read your e-mail, peruse your medical, financial and academic records, track what books you buy or borrow, secretly search your home, seize your property without justification and hold you indefinitely, do you feel safer?

'Literacy'

continued from page 2

Tim McCallion, Verizon Pacific Region President and Deputy Mayor of Los Angeles Joy Chen.

Weider expressed her sincere gratitude to the program and to Sean Astin in remembering his roots as a former student at Valley by requesting that this scholarship go to the college.

The \$30,000 check will be divided among 15 Valley College students from adult literacy classes. Each will receive \$1,000 per year for two years. The funds will help them pay for tuition, books, childcare and education expenses.

Sean Astin said he was "ludicrously dedicated" to the cause of improving family literacy.

"The greatest gift of this program is a legacy of literacy," Astin said. "There are more than 40 million American adults who cannot read a note from their child's teacher or the instructions on a prescription bottle." The United States ranks 49 in literacy levels among 156 United Nations countries.

"We can raise awareness and improve family literacy," Astin said. "We can deliver an optimistic message that we can end the cycle of disadvantage."

The ceremony included the unveiling of the new literacy campaign poster — A photograph of Astin reading a book with his six-year-old daughter, Alexandra.

Astin stayed briefly after the presentation to autograph copies of the campaign poster for fans and supporters. He said he plans to actively maintain his connection with Valley and hopes to have further opportunities to augment the college's literacy programs.

"It's not much but it's a start," Astin said of the scholarship. "We can begin to empower people with the skills they need to succeed one person at a time."

He wrapped up his comments with a comparison of the ring of illiteracy to the ring in the "Lord of the Rings" — He believes that the darkness of illiteracy can be overcome. "Even darkness will pass," Astin said in the voice of Samwise Gamgee, "Even if you're too small to understand why, there is some goodness left in this world and it's worth fight-

'Fires' continued from page 1

an asthma attack, even if a first occurrence, should seek medical attention immediately, she said.

California State University, Northridge cancelled classes Monday night as evacuation centers were established to accommodate fleeing residents. Granada Hills High School served as an overnight shelter for many San Fernando Valley residents.

"At about a quarter to one the police told us we had to evacuate," said Thomas Lombino, Woolsey Canyon resident. "It was so quick that we barely had a chance to gather some important documents and nothing else."

The Red Cross is providing disaster assistance to the displaced residents. "We're here to apply simple first aid and provide mental health services to residents affected by the disaster," said Bonny LaMonica, Red Cross registered nurse.

Officials blame arson for several of the fires that have spread throughout the region. One of the fires in San Diego County forced the evacuation

of the main air traffic control center forcing the closure of Los Angeles International, Burbank, John Wayne International, Ontario International and San Diego airports on Sunday. Damage is estimated in the billions, according to officials.

A large fire swiftly moving through the Angeles National Forest threatened homes and businesses in the Lake Arrowhead region. Rim of the World High School served as a battleground for fire fighters attempting to control the spreading flames. Mandatory evacuations were in effect for Big Bear and Lake Arrowhead residents.

Large helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft have been battling the blazes by dropping water and fire retardants from Chatsworth to the Mexican border.

The last evacuation at Valley was on Sept. 14, 2001 when a bomb threat was received, according to Dep. Randy Tuinstra, head campus security.

-Jacqui Brown, Krista Carlson, Sylvia Grate and Christina Grate contributed to this article.

'Amnesty' continued from page 2

said the Amnesty Club was deprived of the same resources. She said her request was turned down by the ASU because Amnesty was not an official club yet.

"Ms. Noble brings up an important point," said Sherri Rodriguez, associate dean of student services. The FMF was permitted to have a table at the last club day to promote a leadership summit they hosted Oct. 25 featuring Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers, Rodriguez said.

"The representatives from the organization contacted the college and sought permission to have a table. On club day, as a result of meeting and talking with FMF, several students expressed an interest in starting a club," Rodriguez said.

Currently, the only way students can receive information about the Amnesty Club is from the flyers posted around school and by word of mouth. Halter acknowledges that the success of the amnesty club depends on whether or not students want to be aware.

"I like the idea behind this organization," math student Joshua Smyth said. "Anything where students can gain something from the experience is valuable." Smyth added that students would be more willing to sacrifice their time for something they believe in.

Others agree yet are more apathetic. "I think a club like this is beneficial," psychology student Lisa Harris said, "but personally I'm not really interested. As with most people my age, we just like to complain."

Amnesty International is an organization working to protect human rights worldwide and has a varied network of members and supporters from around the globe. More than 1.5 million people from over 150 countries are a part of the organization, according to the official amnesty international website. Historically the organization has focused on freeing all political prisoners ensuring a prompt and fair trial, abolishing the death penalty, bringing an end to torture and other cruel and inhumane treatment and fighting impunity by working to ensure that perpetrators of such abuses are brought to justice in accordance with international standards.

"The first step to change is awareness. That's why education is so important," Noble said. "Young people don't understand the power they have."

Noble has been a part of the Amnesty International Organization for 17 years and wants to give students the opportunity to be part of a group where they can actively participate in political affairs occurring around the world.

'Phones' continued from page 2

warns students that a ringing cell phone will lower that student's grade.

Physics instructor, Myron Mann says he has taught physics for here for 38 years and would never deduct points for behavior. He says classroom cell use has never been a problem and adds that deducting grades is unnecessary because "on a scale of one to ten [the cell phone problem] ranks about 0.5."

Student Joel Gonzales feels it's a bad idea for instructors to try to ban classroom cell phone use. "Too many people have cell phones now. It's going to be hard for teachers to enforce any kind of policy," Gonzales said.

Camera phone and text messaging devices are now available at low cost. The use of these devices to cheat on exams may be a growing consideration for some instructors, said Duane Martin, Valley administrative analyst.

Martin said he's not aware of any college plans to adopt a specific policy regarding cell phone use. Although some instructors enforce their own policies, the college has no official stand on the issue.

"There's a misconception that because community college is more affordable, students should have lower expectations and respect than they would at an institution such as UCLA or Yale," Martin said. "The first two years of college are the basi-

cally the same no matter what school you attend, so you should expect the same standards and offer the same respect to the instructors that you would at a more expensive school."

Martin understands that some students may have a legitimate need to take calls during class time due to family or business obligations. He urges students who must use phones at school to invest in phones with silent or very discreet ringing settings. He cautions students to respect individual instructor policies regarding leaving the classroom to take phone calls, but adds that instructors can't force a student to remain in the room as long as he or she isn't aggravating the teacher or other students when you leave.

"Students should turn their phones off," student Joanna Ochoa said, "it's rude. If it goes off the teacher should warn them, if it keeps going off then they need to leave."

Disruption of classes is a violation of student conduct, according to the Standards of Student Conduct printed in the class schedule. Many instructors interpret this policy as giving instructors the authority to deduct grades to punish classroom cell phone users.

"Classroom cell phone rules depend on each instructor's personality. The college doesn't have a specific policy that all teachers have to follow," Martin said.

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'Tuition'

continued from page 1

lege costs remain unchecked, according to McKeon.

Beginning in 2008, institutions with an affordability index above 2.0 will be required to provide to the Department of Education an explanation for the increase in costs and tuition and fees charged to students. Colleges will also be required to provide plan as to how the institution will reduce its affordability index including a timeline by which the institution will maintain or reduce such costs.

The bill would not give the federal government any role in setting costs but would allow colleges to continue to set tuition at rates, but give the federal government the option of removing direct subsidies to institutions that repeatedly engage in exorbitant tuition hikes that hurt students and parents beginning in 2011.

The American Council on Education remains strongly opposed to McKeon's efforts to impose price controls at post-secondary institutions, ACE President David Ward said.

"There is no denying the bad news released by the College Board," Ward said. "College prices, particularly at public institutions have increased sharply over the past year. Until we publicly debate the cost-shifting that is occurring in many states, no amount of effort by our institutions to raise revenue and cut expenses will be able to preserve low-tuition formulas, particularly at our public colleges and universities."

'Trustees' continued from page 1

perceived violations.

"I can imagine some students wouldn't want to check out or read books on certain topics from our college libraries for fear that a federal agent (without any cause) may come in and request a listing of all students who have checked books on a specific topic," Scott-Hayes said.

"I work at Barnes and Noble and there have actually been people who've come in to look at records regarding customers," English student Natalie Arriola said, "It was very hush-hush. I think it's horrible. It's scary that they can do something like that just because of Sept. 11."

The USA PATRIOT Act passed 45 days after the 9/11 terrorist attacks expanded the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate suspected terrorists. Its name is an acronym: Uniting and Strengthening America Act by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001.

Proponents of the PATRIOT Act say that it's essential to national security, and point out that no terrorist attacks have occurred on American soil since its passage. Attorney General John Ashcroft said in August, "The PATRIOT Act ... closes gaping holes that existed in our ability to investigate terrorists, updates our antiterrorism laws ... [and allows] us to build an extensive team that shares information and fights terrorism together."

Introduced in March 2003 by Rep. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt), the Freedom to Read Protection Act is one of the more modest bills introduced this year to scale back PATRIOT. With 137 co-sponsors, its stated purpose as "To amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act to exempt bookstores and libraries from orders requiring the production of any tangible things for certain foreign intelligence investigations and for other purposes."

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act allows the government to collect intelligence information from

"agents of foreign powers." The USA PATRIOT Act, however, allows the government to obtain personal records of American citizens from libraries and Internet service providers and to conduct secret searches of homes and offices.

"I think it's a very important resolution," Valley College President Tyree Weider said. "I'm very pleased that the Board of Trustees felt concerned enough to make a public statement, to express their commitment to education."

How concerned Valley students are about the PATRIOT Act remains to be seen. In an informal poll of 100 students, only eight said that they had ever heard of the legislation and only four of them actually knew about its controversial aspects.

"It circumvents a lot of our basic rights as Americans for the pursuit of terrorism," film major Christian Robinson said. "It's a grave injustice and needs to be repealed. If we're going to restrict people's rights, at least let us vote on it."

The board's action coincides with the American Civil Liberties Union-sponsored National Week of Student Action to Oppose the PATRIOT Act (Oct. 26 — Nov. 2). Events are scheduled on campuses around the country. Currently the closest such location to Valley is Occidental College in downtown Los Angeles, but the ACLU says that new events are being added daily. A complete list is available on the ACLU website.

Trustee Scott-Hayes said she hopes the resolution will be circulated.

"Our institutions are about opening our students' minds, discussing difficult issues and encouraging the reading of books on all kinds of topics so we can help expand students' understanding and sensitivity to the world around them," Scott-Hayes said. "The last thing we need is to have our students now worry about what they can and cannot read out of fear of being a target of our federal government."

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7

WSC SOCCER

Citrus Owls Molting at Valley

■ Back-to-back wins bring the Lady Monarchs back into playoff contention.

BY JORGE GALLEGOS
STAFF WRITER

The Lady Monarchs charged back into the playoff hunt with a 3-0 victory against Citrus at Monarch Stadium.

Valley ended its losing streak thanks to the clutch play of Friday Camclang. "I'm so hungry, I want to score a goal every game," said Camclang, who scored twice in the game.

Brenda Garcia did a solid job replacing injured sweeper Karen Recinos, who suffered a serious knee injury at Pierce Oct. 14. Recinos will be out indefinitely.

"I feel great playing as a sweeper," Garcia said. "It's the position I like to play the most."

The first half presented the Monarchs with few clear opportunities to score. Forward Vicky Granados had the first chance to score when she received a pass outside of the 18-yard box, placing her right in front of the Owls' goalkeeper Nhi Thi Tran. That shot missed just outside, robbing the left post, and when the Monarchs' team captain Olga Pedraza took a free-kick,

Owls' goal-keeper Tran saved it.

In the second half, Citrus' play was consistent to their lethargic first half, but Valley came out more intense and took advantage, scoring all three goals during the last 45 minutes.

Monarch midfielder Friday Camaclang scored the first goal with a medium range power shot that Owls goalkeeper Tran couldn't control and forward Karla Soriano was rewarded for her hard work scoring the second goal of the match when she

made a speedy play, dodging the goalkeeper and smashing the ball into the net.

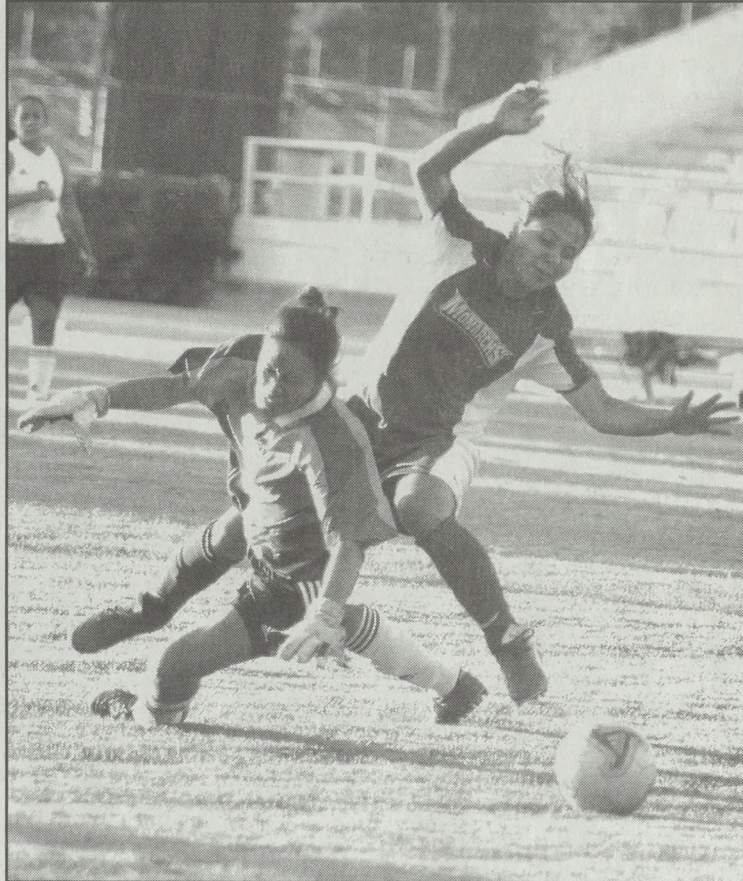
Midfielder Camaclang sealed the game for the Monarchs, scoring her second goal late in the game. The goal was a clear description of the game, coming when Camaclang shot a free-kick, taking advantage of a distracted Citrus defense.

The Lady Monarchs' next game will be at College of the Canyons Friday Oct. 31.



JORDAN DINAPOLI/ VALLEY STAR

HEAD ON - Citrus Owls' goalkeeper Nhi Thi Tran collides with her own player as Monarch Obvulia Mechel narrowly misses a header.



JORGE GALLEGOS/ VALLEY STAR

RUN OVER - Monarch forward Vicky Granados is tackled by Owl goalkeeper Nhi Thi Tran provoking a free kick which ended in Valley's third goal.

COC Cougars Valencia, CA ■ October 31 4 p.m.

LAVC SCORES

Football @ Canyons (L 19-48) 10/25/03 Record: 1-6
Turmarian Moreland 35 yard Int. return for a TD

Soccer @ Bakersfield (L 1-2) 10/24/03 Record: 7-6-2

Water Polo (w) vs. Canyons (W 21-8) 10/25/03 Record: 1-6
CURRENT RANKING: Seventh in California

LAVC SCHEDULE

Wednesday 10/29/03	Thursday 10/30/03
Women's Water Polo @ SMC 3:30 p.m.	No Scheduled Games
Friday 10/31/03	Saturday 11/1/03
Soccer @ Canyons 1 p.m.	Men's Water Polo @ Harvard WP 9 a.m.
Cross Country @ Pierce 3 p.m.	Football @ Allan Hancock 7 p.m.
Men's Water Polo @ Citrus 3 p.m.	
Women's Water Polo @ Citrus 3 p.m.	
Sunday 11/2/03	Tuesday 11/4/03
No Scheduled Games	Men's Water Polo @ Fullerton 3 p.m.
	Women's Water Polo @ Fullerton 4:15 p.m.

PRO SCORES

L.A. Lakers @ G.S. Warriors (L 83-99) 10/8/03	
Shaquille O'Neal: 10 pts, 8 rb, 5 ast	Gary Payton: 11 pts, 2-2 ft
L.A. Galaxy @ K.C. Wizards (L 2-1 OT) 10/3/03	
LAG: 8-12-8	KCW: 10-10-8
Ana. Mighty Ducks vs. Ch. Blackhawks (OT 1-1) 10/26/03	
GOALS: Chicago - Calder	Anaheim - Lupul
L.A. Kings vs. Ch. Blackhawks (L 2-3) 10/25/03	
LAL Record: 4-4-0-0	CB Record: 3-4-2-0

Questions? Comments? Suggestions?

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"You should return your paycheck, your hat, your whistle, everything."

Ron Ponciano,
Football Head Coach,
to a referee after a blown call in the first half of the Monarchs loss at College of the Canyons



Photo by Jordan DiNapoli

Swim is Smooth and Easy

■ Women's Water Polo wins 12th consecutive game.

BY JAYSON ADDCOX
SPORTS EDITOR

The Lady Monarchs cruised to an easy victory despite some faltering against an overpowered Canyons squad Wednesday, winning their third conference game 21-8 at Monarch Pool.

"It was kind of like a scrimmage," said Argine Kadymya. "We knew we were the better team."

The Lady Monarchs dismantled the Cougars early and often behind the solid play of sophomore Megan Winchell who scored six goals increasing her total for the season to 84.

"We didn't play our best but we managed to beat them easily," said goalie Caroline Bohbot who had five saves.

The Cougars couldn't stop Valley's offensive rampage with the Monarchs scoring time after time, putting the game away early.

"They don't have a high level game of water polo there," head coach Bill Kraus said.

"We need to stay focused and pick up the intensity in practice," said Kraus. The Monarchs have won twelve games in a row, but some of the games have been against lower level teams, which concerns Kraus.

The Monarchs face a tougher team this week in Santa Monica. Valley beat Santa Monica 13-7 in a non-league game early in the year, however this week's game will be more important.

The Monarchs are (3-0) in league and are making a solid run to the playoffs, the women have made it clear early on that they are serious.

With the conference tournament right around the corner, these league games are crucial.

AN OPINION David vs. Goliath

BY JAYSON ADDCOX
SPORTS EDITOR

The Texas Christian Horned Frogs (8-0) are ranked No. 15 in the AP polls and No. 12 in the BCS standings. However their chances of playing in a major bowl game are slim to none. Thanks to the BCS, teams not in the six major conferences have a limited opportunity of playing for the championship.

The BCS was set up in 1998 by college football's six biggest conferences — Big East, Big 12, Pac 10, Big 10, ACC and SEC — and Notre Dame in order to determine a champion without a playoff system. The BCS uses polls, computer rankings, strength of schedule, losses and bonus points to determine which two teams will play for the title.

The top six teams in the BCS are granted automatic bids for a major bowl championship game and a team must be in the top 12 to be eligible for an at large bid. The four major bowl games are the Rose, Fiesta, Orange, and the site of this year's national championship game, the Sugar Bowl.

TCU is in the Conference USA, they are not a BCS team and even if they beat No. 25 Louisville this Saturday, they'll have a hard time convincing the BCS to rank them higher. TCU doesn't

want to become another casualty of the BCS.

In 1998 Tulane, another non-BCS team, finished 12-0 and ranked No. 11 in the BCS standings, yet they were forced to play in the Liberty Bowl, leading many to contend that the BCS was unfair.

The BCS contends that all 117 teams have access to its multi-million dollar bowl system. In the system that pays out about \$13 million to each team that makes it to a BCS game, a non-BCS school sees very little of the \$115 million dollars that is shared among BCS members.

No non-BCS team has finished higher than No. 10. "I would say it would be impossible to finish in the top six," Tulane president Scot Cowan said.

Changes to the BCS system are in progress. The new contract begins in 2006. The members of the BCS are considering guaranteeing any undefeated top 12 team an automatic bid. That is a great idea that would benefit many of the under privileged Universities who have been shunned by the BCS so far. The Horned Frogs won't benefit from that revision this year, but if they stay undefeated they deserve a shot at the title.

WOMEN'S WATER POLO Upcoming Schedule Los Angeles Valley College Western State Conference

Opponent	Location	Date	Time
Santa Monica Corsairs	Santa Monica	10/29	3:30 p.m.
Citrus Owls	Azusa	10/31	4:15 p.m.
Fullerton Hornets	LAVC	11/4	4:15 p.m.
WSC Tourney	TBA	11/7-8	All Day

NOTES

MLB
The Boston Red Sox, still hurting from a bitter seven-game loss to rival New York Yankees fired manager Grady Little on Monday.

MLB
Thousands of fans showed up to greet the World Series Champion Florida Marlins Sunday afternoon. An estimated 50,000 people celebrated on the streets throughout the evening.

NBA
Los Angeles Laker guard Kobe Bryant lashed out at teammate Shaquille O'Neal in an interview with ESPN's Jim Gray Monday. Bryant said, "If leaving the Lakers at the end of the season is what I decide, a major reason for that will be Shaq's childlike selfishness and jealousy."

NBA
The NBA suspended Philadelphia 76er's forward Glenn Robinson for three games stemming from a conviction of domestic battery and assault against his former fiancée last May.

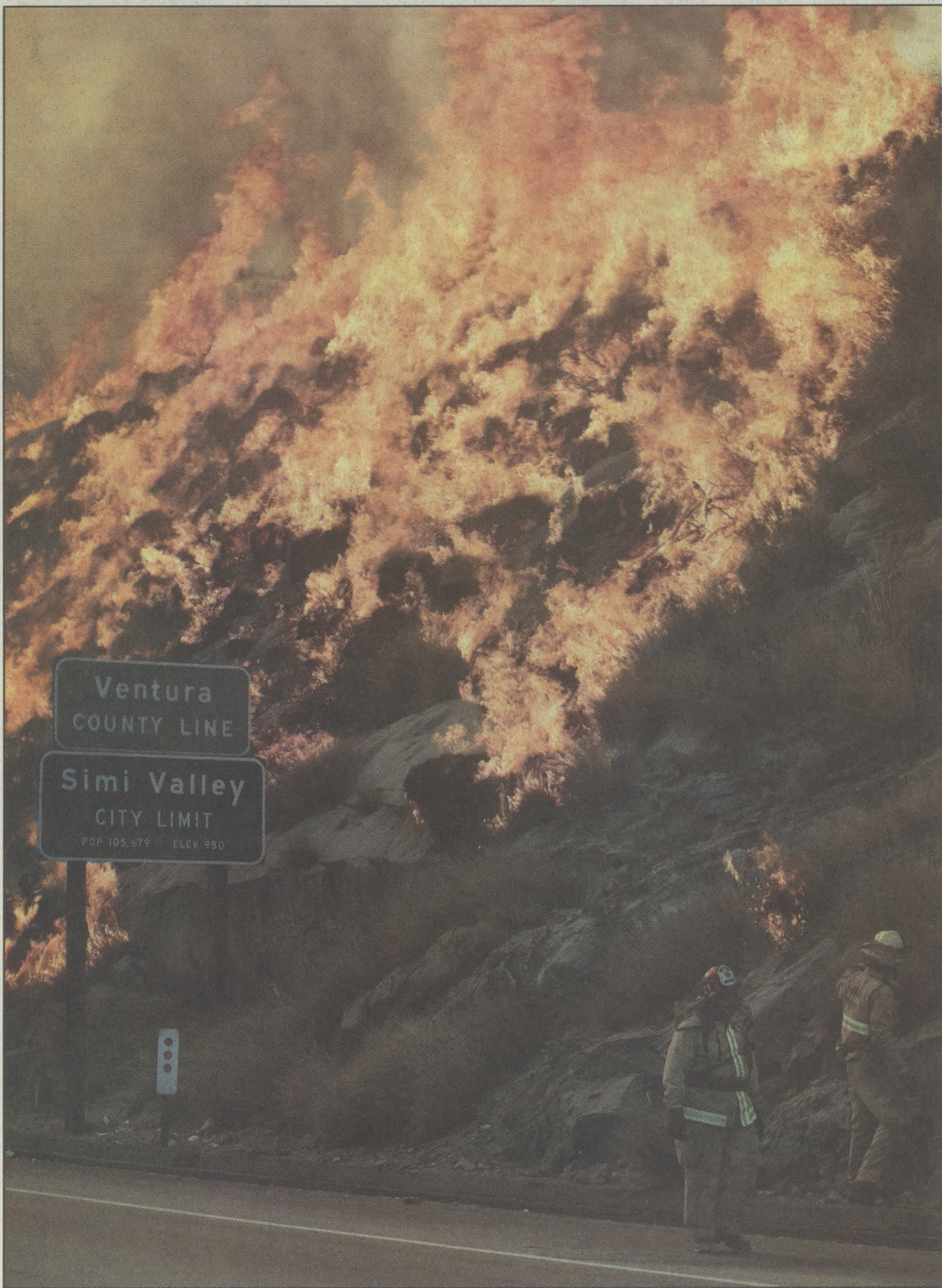
NBA
Houston Rockets forward Eddie Griffin was accused of hitting his former girlfriend three times and shooting at her. He has not been charged and police said they would give Griffin an opportunity to make a statement.

NFL
Seven Oakland Raiders and three other NFL players were subpoenaed to testify in the federal grand jury investigation into a Burlingame, CA nutritional supplement laboratory and the designer steroid Tetrahydrogestrinone (THG). THG is a specially designed anabolic steroid that is undetectable by normal testing.

NFL
The Minnesota Vikings lost their first game of the year to the New York Giants 29-17 Sunday afternoon. The loss marks the first time the Vikings have lost in 10 regular season games since Dec. 10 of last year.

NBA
ABC confirmed veteran announcer Al Michaels will announce the 2002-2003 NBA season.

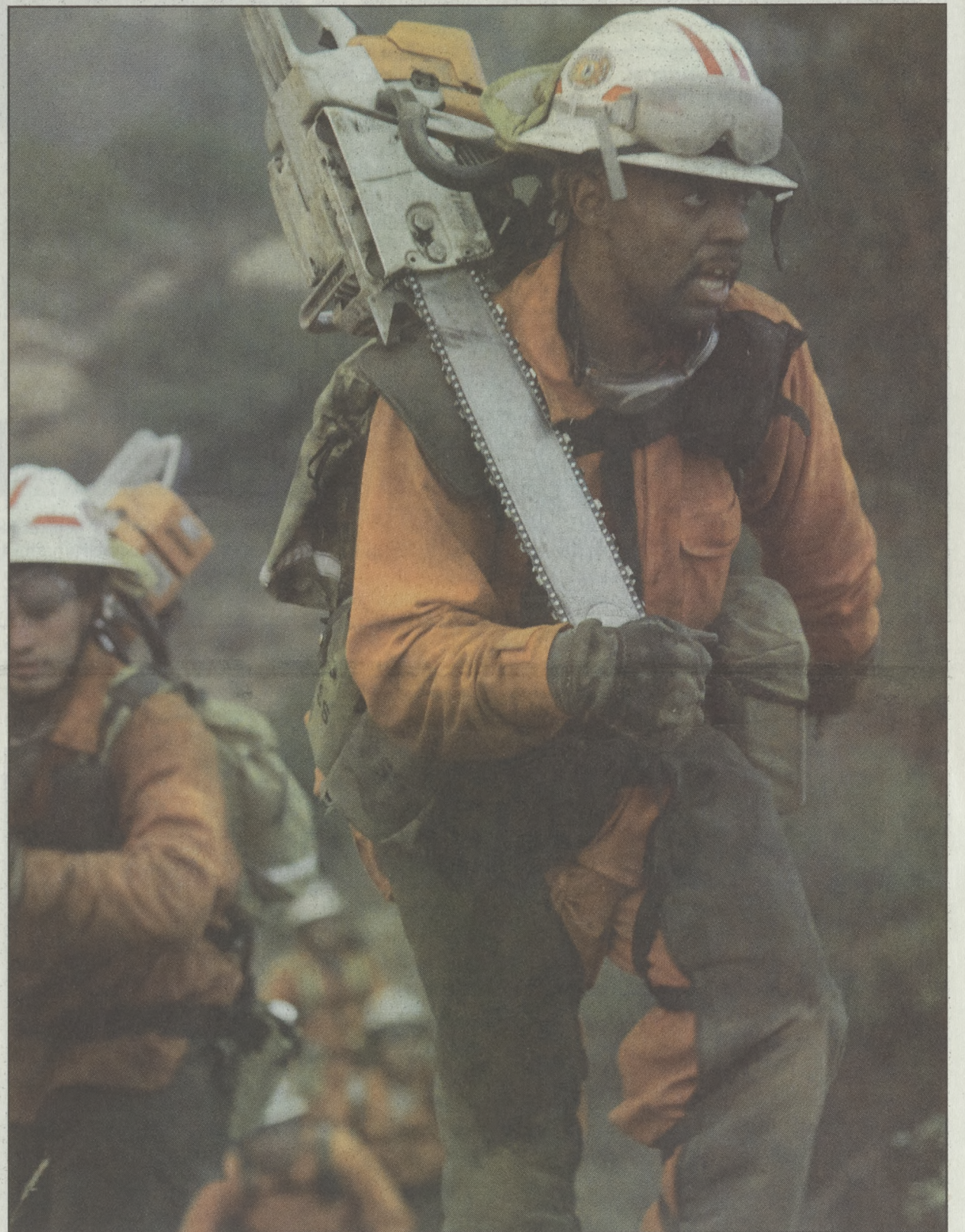
GALLERY



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VENTURA COUNTY LINE FIRESTORM

HOLDING THE COUNTY LINE - Firefighters have been working around the clock in thick smoke, ash and extreme heat to keep the Simi Valley Fire from jumping the 118 Freeway Monday. Dozens of fire fighting companies and the California Department of Forestry were using a technique called backburning to try and extinguish the fire in the rugged terrain boarding the Chatsworth community on both sides of the freeway.



TAMMY ABBOTT/VALLEY STAR